

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

ADP-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /108 W
----- 107572

R 151630 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2245

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 549

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3422

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, TS

SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA' S MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE

REF: STATE 110547

DEPT PASS CAIRO

1. SINCE FONMIN MASMOUDI ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO GENEVA, AND SINCE WE BELIVED IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CONVEY U. S. REACTION TO BOURGUIBA' S INITIATIVE AT EARLY DATE, I TOOK OCCASION OF MEETING WITH FONOFF DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFARIS SALAH LADGHAM TO PASS MESSAGE. LADGHAM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, AND SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT TO MASMOUDI.

2. IN DISCUSSION, WE ASKED LADGHAM IF THERE HWD BEEN ANY SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. LADGHAM APPEARED SOMEWHAT GUARDED, BUT DID TELL US THAT THE INITIATIVE HAD ELICITED " NO HOSTILE REACTIONS" FROM OTHER ARAB STATES. HE POINTED IN PARTICULAR TO ZAYYAT SPEECH AT UNSC, IN WHICH EGYPTIANS CAME VERY CLOSE TO REPEATING BOURGUIBA' S IDEAS.

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3. LADGHAM ALSO REPEATED WHAT MASCOUDI HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID:
THAT THERE MUST BE A " PLATFORM" FOR ISRAELI- ARAB TALKS. TUNISIA
FAVORED DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT AS IN U. S. NORTH VIETNAMESE
TALKS, GOT THOUGHT THESE MUST BE CAREFULLY PREPARED AND THAT THERE
MUST BE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT.

4. HE NOTED THAT ISRAELIS PROFESSED SUPPORT FOR PEACE.
HOWEVER GOT AND OTHER ARABS ARE AWAITING SOME DECLARATION FROM
ISRAELIS ABOUT PALESTINIANS. LADGHAM SAID THAT ISRAELIS HAD
NEVER USED THE PHRASE " ASPIRATIONS OF ARAB PEOPLES".

5. LADGHAM AND AMERICAN DESK OFFICER OUNAIES, WHO ALSO PRESENT,
SPOKE FAVORABLY OF WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE EVOLVING U. S.
POSITION REGARDING PALESTINIANS. THEY MENTIONED ASSISTANCE
SECRETARY SISCO' S SPEECH ON ANNIVERSARY FOUNDATION OF ISRAEL
AND PARTICULARLY NOTED THAT U. S. NO LONGER SPEAKS ONLY OF
REFUGEES -- THIS THEY CONSIDERED IMPORTANT.

6. I NOTED THAT ONE TROUBLING ASPECT OF BOURGUIBA INITIATIVE
IS STRESS ON 1947 UN RESOLUTION REGARDING PARTITION, SINCE
ISRAELIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY NEVER ACCEPT RETURN TO 1947 " BORDERS".
OUNAIES STATED SPECIFICALLY THAT THIS WAS ONLY A BASIS FOR
TALKS". LADGHAM INDICATED AGREEMENT.

RELPH

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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